value of coking coal imported by Steel Authority of India (SAIL) and Visakhapatnam Steel Plant (VSP) during the last three years arc as under:

Nam of Company	year	Quantity of imports (Million. Tonnes.)	Approximate value (Rs. in crores)
SAI	1991-92	4.255	672.5
	1992-93	4.248	779.6
	1993-94	4.754	889.1
VSP	1991-92	0.989	186.03
	1992-93	1.658	355.94
	1993-94	1.884	384.71
			Cost

(Source SAIL & VSP)

(b) Broad specifications of imported coking coal are as under:

(i)	Ash	8—10%
(ii)	Fixed Carbon	62—677%
(iii)	Inherent Moisture	1.5%
(iv)	Crucible Swelling Number	6—8.57,,
(v)	Sulphur	0.60% max
(vi)	Phosphorus	0.10% max

(c) and (d) Indian coking coal being of high inherent ash content cannot be economically bencficiatcd to the ash level equal to that of imported coking coals. Central Fuel Research Institute (CFRI), Research & Development Centre for Iron & Steel (RDCIS) and Central Mine Planning & Design Institute Ltd. (CMPDI), Ranchi through their collaborative efforts have identified beneficiation and utilisation processes through which low volatile coking coals of Jharia coalfields can be utilised in steel plant blend aftei beneficiating such coals to 18% level level. Based on these studies Coal India Limited have decided to set up a washery on "Build-own-opcrate" basis for beneficiation of coal from Golukdib Opencast Project for supply to steel plants.

Dismissal of workers in BCCL

3483. SHRI A NALLASIVAN: Will the Minister of COAL be refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 5254 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 2nd May, 1994 and state:

(a) whether any intimation has been sent to BCCL management for awarding lesser punishment for alleged unauthorised absence of the staff instead of dismissal from service in accordance with the judgements of the Supreme Court; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and steps taken thereon;

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) and (b) All the Coal Companies have been advised to take action in such cases in the light of the judgement's of the Supreme Court.

Longwall Faces purchased/acquired by Coal India Limited

3485. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) The number of Longwall Faces purchased/acquired by Coal India Limited or its subsidiaries till now;

(b) the year of purchase /acquired, country from which purchased/acquired and the amount, if any, incurred thereon and the place of installing the Longwall Faces;

(c) what was the performance guarantee in each case;

(d) what was the contracted total production as well as production in each case;

(c) what is the actual production during 1993-94, total as well as in each case; and